

Senate Resolution 354

By: Senator Unterman of the 45th

A RESOLUTION

1 Commending public health nurses of Georgia; and for other purposes.

2 WHEREAS, public health nurses are an integral part of the health care system, providing
3 preventive and health promotion services for optimal health to citizens in every community
4 of Georgia; and

5 WHEREAS, public health nurses empower citizens with knowledge and help link Georgians
6 to needed health care; and

7 WHEREAS, these professionals serve the residents of all 159 Georgia counties, often as the
8 major health care resource for Georgians in rural areas; and

9 WHEREAS, in 2006, Georgia public health nurses collected 10,621 specimens for
10 tuberculosis laboratory culture, screened 8,116 contacts of TB cases, started 1,062 contacts
11 on preventive medication, and educated 2,390 health care providers and 3,550 citizens about
12 TB prevention and treatment; and

13 WHEREAS, Georgia public health nurses tested 111,667 individuals for HIV and treated
14 9,500 persons infected with HIV with medication, case management, and supportive
15 services; and

16 WHEREAS, Georgia public health nurses administered approximately 610,500
17 immunizations, performing flu shots for 273,541 individuals; and

18 WHEREAS, public health nurses are responsible for the massive task of screening Georgians
19 to check for various health conditions, and in 2006, the Georgia Division of Public Health
20 screened 3,658 children for chronic medical conditions, 24,500 persons for hypertension,
21 2,100 persons for diabetes mellitus, 16,385 persons for breast cancer, and over 120,000
22 persons for cervical cancer; and

1 WHEREAS, public health nurses have a broad knowledge of nursing and public health
2 sciences, and they have effective relationships with community partners; and

3 WHEREAS, public health nurses are trained in all hazards emergency preparedness to be
4 ready to respond to the community's needs; and

5 WHEREAS, public health nurses are experienced in managing both the mass vaccination
6 clinics associated with influenza vaccine and the emotional highs and lows of the populations
7 served; and

8 WHEREAS, public health nurses are considered first responders in cases of bio-terrorism or
9 natural disaster events and they will be there to answer questions, to immunize, and to lead
10 and guide their communities to safety; and

11 WHEREAS, the public health nurse listens to family concerns, educates the family on
12 disease prevention and safety, and develops trusting relationships with families to address
13 needs that the family may have now and in the future; and

14 WHEREAS, all Georgians owe a tremendous debt of gratitude to public health nurses for the
15 outstanding contributions they make to health care in our state.

16 NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED BY THE SENATE that the members of this body
17 commend public health nurses and thank them for their invaluable contributions to the health
18 and well-being of all Georgians.

19 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the Secretary of the Senate is authorized and directed
20 to transmit an appropriate copy of this resolution to the chief nurse for public health at the
21 Department of Human Resources, Carole Jakeway; and to Cathalene Teahan.